

# \$3 Million Government Study Finds Link Between Excessive Drinking and Aggressive Nightclub Behavior

Perhaps unaware of [centuries of evidence](#) that suggests some kind of connection between excessive alcohol consumption and aggressive behavior on the part of revelers, [including its own](#), the U.S. government launched a series of studies to learn more in 2014. Since then, the cumulative tab for the ongoing studies into the behavior of alcohol-consuming nightclub customers has cost U.S. taxpayers nearly \$3 million.

Thomas Phippen of the *Daily Caller* [dredged up](#) the details of this not-quite-so-cutting edge research:

*The government has spent nearly \$3 million studying people who drink and become aggressive at nightclubs since 2014, and found, among other things, that heavy drinking is linked to aggressive behavior.*

*The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has provided \$2,897,322 to the Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation for a [series of studies](#) on “group-based intervention for alcohol, drugs and aggression among club patrons.”*

*The project “targets young, working adults who frequent clubs that feature Electronic Music Dance Events (EMDE) and engage in high risk behaviors” – like heavy drinking and drug use, according to the grant description, first [reported](#) by the Washington Free Beacon.*

The *Washington Free Beacon*’s Elizabeth Harrington [relates](#) why the researchers chose to focus on Electronic Dance Music

clubs:

*The researchers also argued in the paper that EDM clubs “compel attention,” because dance clubs provide the “context in which social groups interact, a public space allowing for drinking and aggression to emerge.”*

Then again, that pretty much describes any bar, tavern, club, or sporting event where alcohol is sold to the public. Harrington also shares some of the not-so-surprising results of the studies to date.

*“Interestingly, groups that had higher levels of planned intoxication decreased risks of experiencing aggression, while a discrepancy in these intentions among group members increased the risks,” according to the study’s [published results](#) from 2016.*

*“Also, being in a group that is identified as having at least one member who is frequently drunk, increases the risk for experiencing sexual aggression,” the researchers said...*

*Other results include patrons at [clubs with a security presence feel safer](#), and couples who club together experience [“less risk.”](#)*

But the real kicker is the [disclosure](#) that the same research outfit receiving all these grants has also been awarded another \$333,210 in U.S. taxpayer funds by the NIH to investigate bars on both sides of the U.S. and Mexican border in California:

*The National Institutes of Health is spending over \$300,000 to study bars along the U.S.-Mexico border.*

*The Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation is heading the project. Among the study’s aims are to examine whether bars in border towns like Mexicali have “more dancing” and*

*“louder music.”*

*The study, “Mexican American Drinking Contexts On and Away From the U.S.-Mexico Border,” involves researchers going into bars for “unobtrusive systematic observations.”*

I wonder how many *Beacon* readers/researchers would be up for conducting similar unobtrusive systematic observations if only we could score some federal funding!

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